

To be specific, Applicant respectfully notes that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 803 (emphasis added)

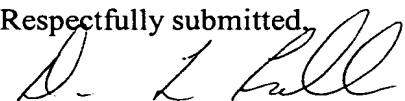
All of the pending claims are directed to methods or pharmaceutical compositions comprising a bupropion metabolite. Thus, a bupropion metabolite is present in all of the claims. Therefore, even if the Applicant were to elect one of the groups, the required search would necessarily encompass the subject matter of the other groups.

Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant reserves the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144. Applicant further reserves their right to file one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications directed to the subject matter recited by the non-elected claims, as well as to any other matter disclosed in the present application, which is not encompassed by the elected claims.

Aside from the extension of time fees, no fee is believed due for this submission. However, should any additional fee be required, please charge such fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

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 48,907

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